

THE HOLY BIBLE

TELEPLAY EDITION

Episode 1007

"Sodom and Gomorrah"

by

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Based on the novel by God

TEASER

EXT. ABRAM'S ENCAMPMENT - HEBRON - DAY

SUPER: "2046 Anno Mundi"

Abram, now 99, stands watching over the men tending his flocks and herds. A boy of 13, ISHAMEL, runs up to him.

ISHMAEL

Father, Eliezer sent me to tell you that he has just left for Sodom to see about Lot as you asked.

ABRAM

God be with him. Thank you, Ishmael.

ISHMAEL

Yes, father.

Ishmael runs off. Abram looks after him and smiles.

ABRAM

(to himself)

Is he the promised one?

As God speaks his opening lines in the familiar voice, light gathers into a single place before Abram until it coalesces into the form of a human. (Although we see God in human form on a few occasions, we should never see his face). Abram drops to the ground in reverence.

GOD

I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers. As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.

ABRAHAM

Thank you, Lord. I am honored by your blessings.

GOD

As for you, this is my covenant with you and your descendants after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner. Whether born in your household or bought with your money. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.

ABRAHAM

We will do it at once.

GOD

As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give her a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.

Abraham laughs.

ABRAHAM

Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety? If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!

GOD

Yes, but your wife Sarah will be you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. As for Ishmael, I have heard you. I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.

Abraham lifts his head. He stands.

ABRAHAM

This time next year...

Abraham runs into the camp. He finds Unic.

UNIC

Abram, what is it?

ABRAHAM

I have seen God. He has instructed me on a covenant we must start immediately.

UNIC

What must we do?

ABRAHAM

Gather all the men and boys eight days old or older.

UNIC

What's going on?

ABRAHAM

We must circumcise everyone.

Unic freezes and looks at Abraham, almost fearfully.

UNIC

What? Say that again?

ABRAHAM

God said everyone must be circumcised as a sign of his covenant.

UNIC

Are we Egyptians now?

ABRAHAM

Don't argue. Oh, and God has given me a new name.

UNIC

He did?

ABRAHAM

I am Abraham, the father of many nations.

Abraham runs off. Unic turns to tell the men.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. PLAIN OF THE JORDAN - DAY

Eliezer walks down the road toward Sodom. He looks ahead on the road to find two men struggling against each other. Finally, the THEIF prevails over the other, hitting him over the head and making off with his possessions. Eliezer runs over to the POOR MAN.

ELIEZER

Are you ok?

The Poor Man nods and sits up. Eliezer offers some of his water.

POOR MAN

I am fine. Where are you headed?

ELIEZER

To Sodom. My master has family there, and he periodically inquires as to his welfare.

POOR MAN

Oh, Sodom. Why would you wish to go there? You know what happens there?

ELIEZER

I know many stories of the atrocities of Sodom.

POOR MAN

Most recently, you may or may not have heard, that Shakra the judge has allowed a bed to be placed in the center of the town in order to tie visitors to.

ELIEZER

I have not heard this.

POOR MAN

This bed is six feet long. If the man is shorter than six feet, he is stretched to the ends of the bed. If he is taller than six feet, then he is crushed to fit.

ELIEZER

(wincing)

That's horrible.

POOR MAN

Indeed, and you wish go there. You know you are subject to the laws of the land by doing so.

ELIEZER

I prefer to stay clear of any trouble.

POOR MAN

I suspected as much.

He hands Eliezer back his waterskin with the free hand.

ELIEZER

Can I help you in any other way?

POOR MAN

I beg of you. Please catch the man who took my possessions. He will have stopped only just over there to wait for another victim.

ELIEZER

All right.

Eliezer walks around the corner, and the THEIF jumps out of the foliage onto him. Eliezer kicks him off.

ELIEZER

I want no quarrel with you. Why do you act this way to the man who visits your land?

THEIF

What? Is this man your brother,
or have the people of Sodom made
you a judge that you would speak
this way to me?

ELIEZER

It doesn't take a judge to find
you guilty of the theft of this man's
possessions.

THEIF

These possessions are mine.

ELIEZER

Then why did you attack me?

THEIF

I fell.

ELIEZER

Those possessions do not belong to
you. Give them to me.

Eliezer steps forward. The Thief picks up a rock and throws it
at Eliezer. It hits him on the forehead. Eliezer stumbles back.
Blood flows from his forehead.

The Thief grabs Eliezer by the forearm.

ELIEZER

What are you doing?

THIEF

Now pay me for helping to rid you
of this bad blood that was in your
forehead. This is the custom and
law in this land.

The poor man walks around the corner.

POOR MAN

It is true. It is the custom that
when bad blood is released, you
should pay the man who does this
for you.

ELIEZER

(to the Thief)

You wound me and then expect me to pay you for it? I will not do it.

THIEF

You there, you saw what happened, did you not?

POOR MAN

I did. All of it.

ELIEZER

But this man attacked you. What of your possessions?

The poor man picks up his possessions.

POOR MAN

I have them, and I thank you. But you must comply with our land's laws and pay this man.

ELIEZER

I will not.

THIEF

Then we must go to the judge. He will make you pay.

Eliezer shakes his head in disgust, but follows the Thief into town.

INT. SODOM HOUSE OF JUSTICE - DAY

The Thief and Eliezer enter the House of Justice and walk up to the judge in the room, SHAKRA.

SHAKRA

What is the meaning of this?

The thief bows low before the judge. Eliezer does not.

THIEF

Judge Shakra, I was minding my duty on the road out of town, when I found this man with bad blood in his forehead. I did my duty and freed him of this blood with this stone, but he refuses to pay me.

The Thief holds up the stone for the Judge to see.

SHAKRA

Is this true?

ELIEZER

No, Judge Shakra, it is not true. It is true that this man was on the road, but he had robbed another man, and I was trying to help get this other man's possessions back. This Thief picked up a rock and struck me on the forehead, wounding me. I did not request this service.

SHAKRA

Nevertheless, he did rid you of the bad blood.

ELIEZER

I have no bad blood.

THIEF

Because I freed you of it.

SHAKRA

Was there a witness to this?

POOR MAN

Yes, Judge Shakra, I saw it all.

ELIEZER

I helped you.

POOR MAN

Not true. I had fallen, and this man seemed to think I had some kind of problem. He chased my fellow Sodomite away until he overtook him. At that time, I saw my countryman rid this foreigner of his bad blood.

ELIEZER

You have got to be kidding.

THIEF

Most honorable judge, I did rid this man of the bad blood, and I am entitled to my for it. I beg of you to make him pay me.

SHAKRA

These men speak the truth. Give him the pay he is entitled to for this service, for it is the custom in our land.

ELIEZER

Is it?

SHAKRA

It is.

ELIEZER

So if one is freed of bad blood, he is required to pay for this service.

SHAKRA

As you have heard.

ELIEZER

By your own declaration?

SHARKA

Not by my own, but by the law of the land.

Eliezer reaches over to the Thief and takes his stone. He throws it at the judge, striking him on the forehead. The judge stands in anger, bleeding from his wound.

SHAKRA

What is the meaning of this?

ELIEZER

If this is the custom of your land, then give this man my pay for my service to you. Give him what I owe him because it is the custom in this land. You, yourself, just decreed it.

Eliezer leaves the House of Justice. No one stops him, as they maintain their surprise at this turn of events.

EXT. SODOM - DAY

Eliezer walks across the town to the house of Lot. He winces at disgust as he passes the bed in the town square. Blood stains dot its surface. He looks at the shrunken bodies in the streets, some are only covered in blankets, apparently naked underneath. Eliezer knocks on Lot's door.

Lot opens the door.

ELIEZER

I have been sent by your uncle Abram to inquire after your welfare.

LOT

Come in.

Eliezer enters.

INT. LOT'S HOUSE - DAY

Eliezer sits at Lot's table. His wife serves a drink to Eliezer and Lot. Lot sits opposite Eliezer.

ELIEZER

So, how are things in Sodom?

LOT

Getting worse.

ELIEZER

How so?

LOT

These people were not humbled in the least by Abram's rescue of them. They don't care. They are, if anything, worse than before.

ELIEZER

Where are your daughters?

LOT

They have married men of this town, but I fear for their purity. They are good girls.

LOT'S WIFE

Lot. Palith is here.

LOT

Excuse me.

Lot gets up and goes into the kitchen area. Eliezer, curious, follows.

PALITH

They found out. They found out that I was feeding the man, and they are calling for my life.

LOT

You have to get out of here.

PALITH

Where will I go?

LOT

Eliezer, would you take her to Abram?

ELIEZER

What's going on?

LOT

You know of the scheme of these people to starve strangers to death in the streets?

ELIEZER

I do.

PALITH

I have been feeding a stranger and giving him water even though these people want him to die.

ELIEZER

Then we will leave at once.

Lot's wife gathers provisions for the journey. There are some very hard knocks at the door. Everyone freezes. Palith cries.

PALITH

Oh no!

LOT

Shh!

Lot walks to the door and opens it. He blocks the entry to his house with his body.

LOT

Yes?

SODOMITE

Your daughter, Palith, was caught in the act of supporting a stranger in the streets causing his appearance not to change or decay like the others.

LOT

And this is a crime?

SODOMITE

You live among us. You know our laws. She must be given into our hands.

LOT

She is not here.

SODOMITE

You lie. If you do not give her up,
we will take her by force.

LOT

Then you'll have to take her by
force because I will not give up
my daughter.

SODOMITE

Break it down.

The door is hit with considerable force, knocking Lot to the ground. Eliezer tries to hold it, but he, too is thrown out of the way. Ten men enter the dwelling. One of them points out Palith.

PALITH'S HUSBAND

That's her.

PALITH

My husband, you would betray me?

LOT

You are no man I would claim as
a son.

PALITH'S HUSBAND

And I would not claim you as a
father. And as your daughter will
die, our union is dissolved.

Lot reacts in anger, punching Palith's Husband, but two other men hold him. Palith's Husband comes to his feet and hits Lot in the stomach, knocking him to the floor.

SODOMITE

Our quarrel is not with you, but
your daughter. You may live in
peace.

The men leave, dragging Palith with them.

EXT. SODOM TOWN SQUARE - DAY

The men drag Palith to the center of town where Judge Shakra awaits. His forehead has been bandaged. Behind him, several Sodomites stoke a fire. The Sodomite steps forward to accuse her.

SODOMITE

This woman did supply a stranger with bread and water, causing his appearance not to decay and him not to die this whole time he was among us.

SHAKRA

Where is the stranger now?

SODOMITE

We had sex with him, and then killed him as he ought to have died many days ago.

SHAKRA

Very well. What do you wish?

SODOMITE

She must be punished according to our law since she transgressed it. What is her punishment for this act she committed?

SHAKRA

She will be burned in the fire.

The men cheer. They tie her to a stake near the fire. The men start to shovel the burning kindling around her. The flames lick the hem of her clothes. She screams.

INT. LOT'S HOUSE - DAY

Like a broken man, Lot closes the door. He looks at Eliezer.

LOT

You can tell Abram that things are not going well, and I regret choosing the choice land over what he got.

ELIEZER

I'm sure whatever you need, he will help you.

LOT

I know. We will need it soon, I feel.

A scream permeates the air again. Lot flinches. Tears roll down his cheeks.

ELIEZER

I will report back to Abram all that has happened.

LOT

I would sooner mix our flocks than live in this place my whole life.

ELIEZER

What of your other daughters?

LOT

Some are also married to men of this town. Part of me will stay as long as they do. I don't know how willing they will be when they hear of their sister.

ELIEZER

How many daughters do you have?

LOT

Several. I have two who still live with me.

ELIEZER

Be strong. You will have an answer in a few days.

LOT
(nodding)

Ok.

Eliezer walks out the door. A scream sneaks in. Lot winces again.

EXT. PLAINS OF THE JORDAN - DAY

Eliezer walks away from Sodom as quickly as possible. Black smoke fills the air above the city behind him.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. ROAD TO ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

SUPER: "Three Days Later"

On the road leading the Abraham's encampment, three lights form into human shape. A manifestation of God walks between two ANGELS, RAPHAEL and URIEL, towards Abraham's camp.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Abraham exits his tent and walks to a chair under a tree. Sarah follows after him. As he sits, he winces. He adjusts his robe and sits fully. He is apparently still in a little pain from the circumcision (remember, this was done to the poor guy at 99, no anesthetic and no Tylenol).

SARAH

Can I get you anything?

ABRAHAM

No, Sarah, I'm fine for the moment, thank you.

SARAH

I'm still getting used to my name.

ABRAHAM

Me too. God has requested a couple rather large changes recently, but we must follow his word...

Abraham moves his legs and winces again.

ABRAHAM

No matter what the pain.

Sarah laughs.

SARAH

Well, let me know if you need anything. You just sit there a recover.

ABRAHAM

Thank you.

Sarah goes back into their tent. Abraham sits back and relaxes. He looks off into the distance and sees God's Manifestation along with his two angels walking towards him.

He pulls himself to his feet and runs to the trio. When he reaches them, he bows low to the ground.

ABRAHAM

If I have found favor in your eyes,
O Lord, do not pass your servant by.
Let a little water be brought, and
then you may all wash your feet and
rest under this tree. Let me get you
something to eat, so you can be
refreshed and then go on your way-
now that you have come to your
servant.

RAPHAEL

Very well. Do as you say.

ABRAHAM

Thank you.

Abraham runs, despite the pain, to his tent and enters.

Sarah looks up, startled.

SARAH

Abraham, what is it?

ABRAHAM

Quick, get twenty quarts of fine
flour and knead it and bake some
bread.

SARAH

Why? What's going on?

ABRAHAM

The Lord is here. Please work
quickly.

Abraham leaves the tent and runs to the field. He selects a calf from the herd and brings it another tent.

ABRAHAM

Eliezer!

Eliezer opens the tent. He is clearly in pain as well.

ELIEZER

Yes, Abraham?

ABRAHAM

Quick. Prepare this calf for our guests.

ELIEZER

Guests?

ABRAHAM

Quickly, Eliezer.

ELIEZER

Yes, sir.

Eliezer takes the calf away. Abraham runs off.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Abraham stands beside the tree watching the three eat. We can see the faces of the angels, but God's remains obscured.

URIEL

Where is your wife, Sarah?

INT. ABRAHAM'S TENT - DAY

Sarah stands inside the tent, hiding behind the flap, as if listening while trying not to be caught.

ABRAHAM (O.S.)

There, in the tent.

GOD (O.S.)

I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.

At this, Sarah's mouth drops. She laughs.

SARAH

After I am worn out and my husband
is old, will I now have this pleasure?

She shakes her head, laughing.

ABRAHAM (O.S.)

Sarah, come out.

Sarah clears up her expression and solemnly exits the tent.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Sarah walks over to Abraham.

GOD

Why did Sarah laugh and say, "Will
I really have a child now that I
am old?" Is anything too hard for
the Lord? I will return to you
at the appointed time next year
and Sarah will have a son.

When Sarah arrives at Abraham's side, she looks surprised that
they heard her laugh.

SARAH

(shaking her head)

I did not laugh.

The Angels look at her, expressionless.

GOD

Yes, you did laugh.

The trio gets up and walks a short distance away. The angels
look at God.

GOD

Should I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

RAPHAEL

He must be told.

GOD

Go now. Learn the truth.

URIEL

Yes, Lord. Your will be done always.

God's Manifestation turns back to Abraham as the men continue onward towards Sodom.

GOD

The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin is so grievous that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.

Abraham walks toward God and stands in front of him.

ABRAHAM

Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from me to question the judge of the earth, for you alone decide the fate of all mankind.

GOD

If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.

ABRAHAM

Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole place because of five people?

GOD

If I find forty-five there, I will not destroy it.

ABRAHAM

What if only forty are found there?

GOD

For the sake of forty, I will not do it.

ABRAHAM

May the Lord be not angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?

GOD

I will not do it if I find thirty there.

ABRAHAM

Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?

GOD

For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.

ABRAHAM

May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?

GOD

For the sake of ten, I will not
destroy it.

Abraham bows low to the ground.

ABRAHAM

Oh Lord, you are a merciful and
forgiving God.

God's Manifestation glows a moment and flashes out. Abraham
rises and heads back to his tent.

EXT. SODOM - SUNSET

Lot sits at the gate to the city before it closes for the
evening. He sees the Angels approaching and he rises. He runs to
them and bows his face to the ground.

LOT

My lords, please turn aside to your
servant's house. You can wash your
feet and spend the night and then
go on your way early in the morning.

RAPHAEL

Thank you, but no. We will spend the
night in the square.

The Angels walk past Lot and into the city. Lot rises and runs
in front of them.

LOT

Please, my lords, you mustn't stay
in the square. I beg of you, come
into my house so I may care for
you tonight.

URIEL

We will be fine in the square.

LOT

I cannot permit it. You don't know
what it is like.

Lot looks around. Men of the city watch the exchange between him and the angels.

LOT

You must spend the night in my house. I will care for you and you may be on your way tomorrow.

RAPHAEL

Very well. Thank you for your kindness.

Lot leads them. The Angels cast a glance to each with a curt nod of understanding. Lot opens his door and almost rushes them inside. He looks around briefly and closes his door.

INT. LOT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Angels sit at Lot's table with his wife and two daughters.

URIEL

Tell us about Sodom and its neighboring cities.

LOT

I hardly wish to. This is a horrible place, and I plan to leave soon. I don't recommend anyone living here.

RAPHAEL

Would there be others here who would have invited us into their home?

LOT

Any that might would rob you in the night, or worse, tell you that the possessions you brought were part of a dream that they would interpret and demand payment for the service of interpretation.

URIEL

That is unpleasant.

LOT

Yes. I lost one of my daughters to these heathens. I have little sympathy for them.

Suddenly, there is a fierce knock at the door. Lot looks up, scared. He closes his eyes and shakes his head in despair.

LOT

Oh, no.

RAPHAEL

What is it?

LOT

I was afraid of this.

Lot walks over to the door. He opens it to find what appears to be every man in the city waiting. Lot exits his house and closes the door behind him.

EXT. SODOM - NIGHT

Lot stands in front of his door, ready to escape into his house, if need be.

LOT

What is the meaning of this?

SODOMITE

Where are the men who came to you tonight?

LOT

They are my guests. What do you want?

SODOMITE

They are the most beautiful of men we have ever seen. Bring them out to us so we may have sex with them.

Lot's expression drops, disgusted and horrified.

LOT

No, my friends. Don't do this wicked thing. Look, I have two daughters who are virgins. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. But don't do anything to these men, for they have come under the protection of my roof.

SODOMITE

Get out of our way!

He turns to his fellows.

SODOMITE

This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge!

(to Lot)

We'll treat you worse than them.

The men press in on Lot. He pushes them away, but they start pulling on him. He starts to lose his grip on the door. Suddenly, the door opens and a hand pulls him inside.

INT. LOT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Raphael pulls Lot in and deposits him on the ground, where Lot stays. His wife and daughters tend to him. The pounding on the door continues.

Raphael and Uriel stand up and hold their hands out to the door.

ANGELS

In the name of the Lord, be blind!

EXT. SODOM - NIGHT

The men crowd round the door, trying to force it open. A wave of something rushes over the group. They all stop pushing and start panicking, running about. Some cry out that they cannot see. They run into each other and walls, screaming.

INT. LOT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Uriel pulls Lot to his feet.

URIEL

Do you have anyone else here -
sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or
anyone else in the city who belongs
to you?

LOT

My daughters and their husbands.

URIEL

Get them out of here, because we are
going to destroy this place.

Lot's expression goes from confusion to disbelief to horror.

URIEL

The outcry to the Lord against its
people is so great that he has sent
us to destroy it.

LOT

How long do I have to convince them?

URIEL

We will wait until dawn.

Lot runs out of his house.

EXT. SODOM - NIGHT

Lot runs through the streets, avoiding the stumbling men. He
gets to the house of one of his daughters. He knocks
frantically.

SON-IN-LAW 1

What is it?

LOT

Please, you must come with me.
Out of the city. The Lord is going
to destroy this place on account
of its wickedness.

The Son-in-law laughs.

DAUGHTER 1 (O.S.)

Who is it?

SON-IN-LAW 1

Your crazy father.

LOT

My daughter, please, you must come with me. God will destroy this place in a matter of hours.

DAUGHTER 1

Father, go home.

SON-IN-LAW 1

Yeah, get out of here.

He closes the door. Lot pounds on it again.

SON-IN-LAW 1 (O.S.)

Go home. We're not interested.

LOT

But you will all die!

SON-IN-LAW 1 (O.S.)

Then we won't see you later.

Laughing issues from within. Lot is frustrated. He runs across the town to another house. He pounds on the door.

LOT

Open up, please! Open up!

His Daughter 2 opens the door.

DAUGHTER 2

What is it, father?

LOT

Please, my daughter, you must leave town with me. The Lord is going to destroy Sodom on account of its wickedness.

DAUGHTER 2

I don't have time for this. My husband has things to do tomorrow, and I need to get some sleep.

LOT

You can sleep later. We must go!

Lot takes hold of her wrist to pull her out. She stumbles but shakes free.

DAUGHTER 2

Father, go home. This isn't funny. We know how bad it is, and I'm sorry Palith died, but we live here, and we're not leaving.

LOT

But you will die.

DAUGHTER 2

Yes, of course. I'll check on you tomorrow to make sure you're ok.

LOT

But we won't be here tomorrow! This whole place will be gone!

DAUGHTER 2

Ok, father, whatever you say. I'm going to bed.

She walks into her house and closes the door. Lot falls to his knees.

LOT

(distracted)

No!

The Angels walk up behind him, accompanied by his wife and two younger daughters.

LOT

They won't come. How can we leave without them? Please, you must give me more time to convince them.

RAPHAEL

Noah warned the people for one hundred and twenty years to repent and still no one listened. You have done what you can.

URIEL

Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished.

LOT

But my other daughters...

The Angels grab the wrists of Lot and his family and drag them through the city and out of it.

EXT. PLAIN OF THE JORDAN - DAWN

The Angels stop just outside the entrance to the city.

RAPHAEL

Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!

LOT

No, my lords, please! Your servant found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die.

Lot points to a small town between Sodom and the mountains.

LOT

Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it—it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared.

Raphael and Uriel look at each other for a moment, expressionless.

URIEL

Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of. But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it.

LOT

Thank you.

Lot and his family runs across the plain at high speed towards the city of ZOAR. The Angels remain at the entrance to the city.

EXT. ZOAR - DAY

Lot and his family runs into the city. Lot rests against a building along with his daughters.

LOT

I guess we made it.

LOT'S WIFE

Can we see what's going on?

LOT

No. They told us not to look back.

EXT. PLAIN OF THE JORDAN - DAY

The Angels turn toward Sodom behind them. Together they raise their hands to the heavens and disappear. As soon as they are gone, fire and brimstone rains onto the cities from the heavens. not only is Sodom hit, but the nearby cities of Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboyim as well.

EXT. ZOAR - DAY

Thunder reigns across the plains to where Lot and his family are hiding in Zoar. Lot keeps his daughters close to him. His wife, however, is overcome by curiosity and walks to the edge of the city to view the destruction with several of the other inhabitants. Lot looks up to see her standing in the road facing Sodom watching the destruction with wonder.

LOT

No, don't look back!

As she looks, she suddenly wrenches in pain. She transforms in a pillar, or column, of salt. Lot and his daughters look on in horror. Lot holds his daughters close to him.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Abraham stands outside his tent, looking towards Sodom with Sarah, Hagar, Eliezer, and several other of his servants and people. They all watch the destruction in wonder and horror.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. CANAAN - DAY

SUPER: "2047 Anno Mundi"

Abraham leads his family and servants in caravan west across Canaan. Sarah rides upon a donkey. Abraham walks.

ABRAHAM

Sarah, we are heading into the land of Gerar. It is ruled, I hear by a man named Abimelech, who does not fear God.

SARAH

What are we to do?

ABRAHAM

As we have done before, when we enter the land and anyone asks, tell them you are my sister so that we can escape the evil of the inhabitants of the land.

SARAH

Are you sure that's a good idea?

ABRAHAM

If we tell them the truth, they may kill me and take you for themselves.

SARAH

Ok.

The caravan continues on its way.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - GERAR - DAY

Abraham has setup his camp very much as he had it in Hebron. A SERVANT OF ABIMELECH walks through the camp to him.

SERVANT

I come from Abimelech, the lord and king of Gerar. We require a census of all that you own so that a proper tax may be assessed upon you.

ABRAHAM

Certainly, you are free to walk about my camp and count whatever you feel is necessary to count.

Sarah comes out of their tent. The Servant looks upon her with wonder.

SERVANT

And who is she to you?

Abraham looks over to Sarah.

ABRAHAM

That is Sarah. She is my sister.

Sarah looks over to find the servant staring at her. She nods to him, politely.

SERVANT

The king will require your presence at the palace today to bring an accounting of who you are, where you came from, and why you are in Gerar.

ABRAHAM

How many does he wish to hear from?

SERVANT

You, your sister, and your highest ranking servants.

ABRAHAM

When?

SERVANT

You will follow me back.

ABRAHAM

Very well.

Abraham walks over to Sarah.

ABRAHAM

We need to go to the palace to give
an accounting of ourselves. They
you, Hagar, Eliezer, and myself.

SARAH

I will get Hagar and Eliezer.

ABRAHAM

Ok.

Abraham turns back to the Servant.

ABRAHAM

We will be ready in a moment.

SERVANT

Very good.

EXT. PALACE OF GERAR - DAY

The servant leads Abraham, Sarah, Eliezer, and Hagar into the
palace.

INT. GERAR PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

The servant leads the four into the room and kneels before
Abimelech. The four behind him follows suit.

SERVANT

My lord Abimelech. I bring you the
strangers from Canaan who have
settled in our land.

ABIMELECH

Who are you and why have you come
to this land?

ABRAHAM

I am Abraham, son of Terah. We come from the land of Canaan and dwell wherever we find a place. We support ourselves and only look for land in which to live. We will not be a burden to you or your people and require nothing.

ABIMELECH

And who is this woman to you?

ABRAHAM

This is my sister, Sarah.

ABIMELECH

Woman, is this man your brother?

SARAH

He is, my lord.

ABIMELECH

Then, Abraham son of Terah, my land is before you. You may have any part of this land that pleases you, and it will be our duty to exalt and elevate you above all the people of the land, as long as your sister remains with me.

Abraham looks over to Sarah, who looks at him worried. Abraham starts to say something, but Sarah beats him to it.

SARAH

I would be honored to remain with you if you honor my brother on my account.

ABIMELECH

Excellent. Go in peace, Abraham son of Terah. Your servant may go with you. Your sister's servant may stay and attend her.

ABRAHAM

Thank you, my king.

Abraham glances once more at Sarah and Hagar. Hagar is very unhappy with this development. Abraham leaves with Eliezer.

Abimelech turns to Sarah.

ABIMELECH

My servant will show you to your
rooms.

He walks to Sarah and strokes her face, assessing her like one would appraise an item.

ABIMELECH

Tonight, you will know Abimelech
as few have. I shall have you
as a wife, and you will love me.

He turns to a servant.

ABIMELECH

Take them to their rooms.

The servant leads Sarah and Hagar out.

Abimelech returns to his throne and sits upon it. The room is quiet. Abimelech sits back and relaxes upon the throne. Slowly, sleep falls over him, and he passes out.

INT. GERAR PALACE THRONE ROOM - DREAM SEQUENCE

Abimelech wakes up and looks before him. Walking toward him in his throne room is an ANGEL WITH A SWORD. Abimelech stands at the approaching visitor.

The Angel leaps across the room and lands on the throne, knocking Abimelech back. The Angel stands over him on the arms of the throne, sword drawn.

ABIMELECH

How have I sinned against you that
you would wish to slay me with a
sword?

God speaks, but not through the Angel. He remains stoic with the drawn sword. God speaks, as usual, through voiceover.

GOD

You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken, for she is a married woman, the wife of Abraham who came into your house.

ABIMELECH

Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation? Did he not say to me, "She is my sister," and didn't she also say, "He is my brother"? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands.

GOD

Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her. Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die.

The angel leaps off the throne and, without wings, flies out the door into the city of Abimelech's dream. Abimelech runs to the doorway looking over the city from an impossible and almost omniscient vantage point.

He watches as the Angel zips around the city, killing everyone in his path.

ABIMELECH

No! No!

END DREAM

INT. GERAR PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Abimelech jerks awake violently.

ABIMELECH

No!

He falls forward to the floor. He rises to his feet. A servant runs in to him.

SERVANT

My lord, are you all right?

He allows the servant to assist him to his feet.

ABIMELECH

I am fine. Go, immediately, and bring Abraham to me.

SERVANT

At once, my lord.

The servant runs out. Abimelech's eyes reflect the fearful sleep he had.

INT. GERAR PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Sarah and Hagar stand to one side of the throne. Abimelech does not look at them. Abimelech's servant leads Abraham in. The servant kneels and Abraham does the same.

ABRAHAM

King Abimelech, you have summoned me.

ABIMELECH

Yes, I did.

Abimelech comes down from his throne and walks up to Abraham.

ABIMELECH

What have you done to us?

ABRAHAM

What do you mean? I have done nothing?

ABIMELECH

Have I wronged you that you have brought such great guilt upon me and my kingdom? You have done things to me that should not be done.

ABRAHAM

I'm afraid I don't understand.

ABIMELECH

You told me she was your sister.
What was your reason for doing this?

ABRAHAM

When we came into your land, I said to myself, "There is surely no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife." Besides, she really is my sister, the daughter of my father though not of my mother; and she became my wife. And when God had me wander from my father's household, I said to her, "This is how you can show your love to me: Everywhere we go, say of me, 'He is my brother.'" "

Abimelech backs away from Abraham, as if the truth were spoken, and he did not like it. He considers Abraham's words.

ABIMELECH

You are correct in what you say.
You have entered a land of sin.
Servant, follow my commands.

SERVANT

Yes, my lord.

ABIMELECH

Give Abraham sheep and cattle and male and female slaves. Return his wife and her servant to him. My land remains before him. He may live wherever he wishes.

Abimelech walks up to Sarah.

ABIMELECH

I offer you my personal apologies.
I am giving your brother a thousand
shekels of silver. This is to
cover the offense against you before
all who are with you; you are
completely vindicated.

SARAH

Thank you.

Sarah runs to Abraham and jumps into his arms. Hagar solemnly
walks over to stand by them. Abraham lowers Sarah to the floor.

ABIMELECH

Now, Abraham, prophet of God,
because of your wife, my people
are sick with a plague. Please
pray for us that we may be healed.

Abraham kneels.

ABRAHAM

Oh, God in heaven, thank you for
protecting Sarah in these
circumstances. Thank you for
returning her to me. Please heal
Abimelech and his people for
the sin he committed without his
knowledge has been vindicated.

Throughout the land, the people are healed of their afflictions.

ABIMELECH

Thank you.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - GERAR

SUPER: "Later that year"

Abraham and Eliezer are once again pacing outside a tent in his
camp.

ABRAHAM

This is it, Eliezer. The
fulfillment of the promise made
made so long ago.

ELIEZER

It is exciting, Abraham.

ABRAHAM

I am a hundred years old. Who would have imagined a child at my age?

ELIEZER

Do you know what you will name him?

ABRAHAM

God gave him a name before he was conceived.

A baby's cry issues from within the tent. Abraham immediately turns to the tent impatiently. Hagar steps out of the tent and holds the flap open.

HAGAR

You have another son.

Abraham rushes into the tent.

INT. ABRAHAM'S TENT - DAY

Sarah lays on the bed holding the baby to her. He smiles as he looks at Sarah. Sarah smiles back at him, tears in her eyes.

SARAH

God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me. Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.

ABRAHAM

After almost fifty years, God gave us a son as he promised. God named him before his birth. Because I laughed, his name is Isaac. Isaac is the beginning of a people without number who will inherit this land.

SARAH

Yes.

They gaze upon him for a moment. Sarah looks to Abraham.

SARAH

I am complete now, my husband. I have my honor. I have borne you a son. My disgrace is lifted. I am happy.

ABRAHAM

I have always loved you.

They kiss gently.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Hagar closes the tent flap. She walks away from the tent, her arms crossed. She wipes away a tear with a sniffle. Ishmael, 14, walks up behind her.

ISHMAEL

Mother, what is wrong? I thought the birth of my brother was to be a happy occasion.

HAGAR

It is, my son.

She turns to him, tears of sadness in her eyes, a false smile on her face.

HAGAR

A very happy occasion.

She hugs her son, and they walk off to their tent.

END OF ACT THREE

Source Material:

From the Bible:

Genesis 17:1-19:28, 20:1-21:7

From Extra-Canonical Works:

The Book of Jashar 17:16-18:10, 19:1-19:35, 19:44-21:3